



# gulf coasting

Southwest Florida's No. 1 Entertainment Guide

Cape  
woman  
recalls  
movie  
career

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## SHOWING OFF: DOGS ON DISPLAY

Saturday, Sunday:  
Lee Civic Center

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## Football frenzy

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to honor NFL player. | 21

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## ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY AMANDA INSCORE/  
THE NEWS-PRESS

Leo, a Cesky terrier, is a  
rare breed originally from  
the Czech Republic.

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AMANDA INSCORE/THE NEWS-PRESS

Gia, a Cane Corso, which is also known as an Italian mastiff,  
is a good dog for families with children. They are also good  
guard dogs. He will be at the Greater Fort Myers Dog Show.

# Dogs show good breeding

## Greater Fort Myers Dog Show Saturday and Sunday at the Lee Civic Center

BY CHARLES RUNNELLS  
[crunnells@news-press.com](mailto:crunnells@news-press.com)

Whenever Gia takes a  
walk, people notice.

Heads turn.

But she's no supermodel, this Gia. At least not the two-legged kind.

Gia is a dog.

An award-winning dog,  
in fact.

The 1-year-old Cane Corso will compete at this weekend's Greater Fort Myers Dog Show. She's one of about 10 breeds competing in the "Miscella-

neous" category — a canine hodgepodge that includes everything from the schnauzer-like Cesky terrier to the hairless (and seemingly unpronounceable) Xoloitzcuintli.

More than 150 breeds will appear at the annual show. There will also be vendor booths stocked with treats, toys and other dog-related items.

Gia's owners always get lots of looks — and lots of questions — whenever they and their dog go out for walks.

Is it a pit bull?, the  
gawkers ask.

A boxer?

A Rottweiler?

No, no and no. But nice  
try.

Instead, Gia — her full name is the aristocratic Mar E Sol's Gia Pantera Gallo — comes from a long line of dogs called Cane Corsos (pronounced KON-nay CORE-so). They're also known as Italian mastiffs.

"They're amazing  
dogs," says owner Desiree Duggan, 34, of Cape Coral.

You can't blame people  
for guessing the wrong  
breed, of course.

Cane corsos are all over  
Europe, but they're lesser  
known in the United  
States.

That could be changing  
soon. This July, the American Kennel Club bumps the breed to the more prestigious Working Dog category (one of seven official classes that include toy dogs, sporting dogs and herding dogs).

See **DOG SHOW** on 26

## IF YOU GO

What: Greater  
Fort Myers Dog  
Show

When: 8 a.m. to  
7 p.m. Saturday,  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sunday. Judging  
starts at 8:30  
a.m. on both  
days.

Where: Lee Civic  
Center, 11831  
Bayshore Road,  
North Fort Myers  
Cost: \$8 per car  
(or \$15 for both  
days)  
Info: Call 945-  
2776 or go to  
[fortmyersdog-club.com](http://fortmyersdog-club.com)

